

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to the life of Mr. Frank M. Toste Sr. His character truly exemplified the best of what America has to offer. His many contributions to agriculture and unwavering commitment to his loved ones will ensure that his legacy lives on for years to come.

THE DESIGNATION OF MEADOW
BROOK HALL AT OAKLAND UNI-
VERSITY AS A NATIONAL HIS-
TORIC LANDMARK

HON. GARY C. PETERS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 18, 2012

Mr. PETERS. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride that I rise today to join with Oakland University in celebrating the designation of Meadow Brook Hall as a National Historic Landmark.

Meadowbrook Hall, built on what was the Dodge family's Meadow Brook Farms in 1929 in then Avon Township, now Rochester Hills, Michigan, is a symbol of the American automotive industry's transformative effect on Michigan. When the 88,000-square foot, 110-room residence was envisioned by Matilda Dodge Wilson, the widow of Dodge Brothers Motor Car Company cofounder John F. Dodge, it was a country residence for her and her family. Today, Meadow Brook Hall is the site of Oakland University, a fully fledged institution of higher learning which supports a student body of 19,000 undergraduate and graduate students.

In Meadow Brook Hall's construction, Mrs. Wilson held true to many of the principles that guided the greats of America's automotive industry. Believing in the spirit of American innovation and contrary to the prevailing practices of the time, Mrs. Wilson had the Tutor-revival styled estate constructed almost entirely from American materials crafted by American designers. And in keeping with the spirit of community involvement that has been ever prevalent in the American automotive industry, Mrs. Wilson often used the grounds of Meadow Brook Hall to host charitable events and civic engagements.

In 1955, it became a focus of the community in Oakland County that as Michigan's second most populous county, area residents should join together to cultivate a local institution of higher learning. Answering the call of their community, Mrs. Wilson and her second husband, Mr. Alfred Wilson, bequeathed the entire 1500-acre Meadowbrook estate to the State of Michigan. And after supporting the endeavor with an additional two million dollars, Michigan State University (MSU) opened its MSU-Oakland Campus in 1959. MSU-Oakland would become known as Oakland University in 1963.

Steeped in the history of Michigan's industrial ingenuity, Meadow Brook Hall has come to embody the American automotive industry's spirit of transformation. Just as the auto industry once raised millions of Americans into the middle class, Meadow Brook Hall and Oakland University continue that proud tradition; providing our youth the tools they need to become the successful leaders of tomorrow. And throughout its years, the spirit of philanthropy and service upon which Meadow Brook was

gifted to the State, continues to be a fundamental tenant to Oakland University as it supports many community endeavors and engages local stakeholders in shaping the future of the Southeast Michigan region.

Mr. Speaker, it is an honor to have supported Oakland University in its endeavor to have Meadow Brook Hall designated a National Historic Landmark. As a symbol not only of Michigan's history, but also its future, the designation of Meadow Brook Hall as a National Historic Landmark is truly becoming of its significant impact on the communities of Southeast Michigan.

FORMER PENNSYLVANIA GOV-
ERNOR WILLIAM WARREN
SCRANTON

HON. LOU BARLETTA

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 18, 2012

Mr. BARLETTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor former Pennsylvania Governor William Warren Scranton on the occasion of his 95th birthday.

Governor Scranton comes from a long line of statesmen and his family founded the Northeastern Pennsylvania city of Scranton. After graduating from Yale University in 1939, he enlisted in the United States Army Air Corps just before World War II. Although he did not see combat, he served honorably and remained active in the U.S. Air Force Reserves for two decades.

Governor Scranton's public service began in the 1950s, when President Dwight D. Eisenhower appointed him as a special assistant to the U.S. Secretary of State in 1959. After a little over a year, Governor Scranton was elected to the U.S. House of Representatives for Pennsylvania's 10th District. As a freshman member, he fought tirelessly for his constituents and fostered bipartisan support for the common good. In 1962, he successfully ran for Governor of Pennsylvania, defeating then Philadelphia Mayor Richardson Dilworth. During his four years in office, Governor Scranton advocated for a strong education system, continued industrial development in the United States and abroad, and fiscally responsible policy.

In 1966, Governor Scranton vowed to never run for public office again, but his service to the community did not end. From 1967 to 1968, Governor Scranton attended the Pennsylvania Constitutional Convention and helped write a new constitution for the state. Additionally, he continued his public service through leadership positions with several civic organizations including; director of the Boys Club of Scranton, vice president of the University of Scranton's President's Council, director of the Scranton Chamber of Commerce, and vice president of the board of directors for Geisinger Memorial Hospital.

After turning down several proposals to run again for public office, Governor Scranton accepted an appointment from President Gerald Ford in 1976 to serve as the United States Ambassador to the United Nations. His ability to promote diplomacy and genuine interest in human rights earned him favor with many nations and promoted a positive world view of the United States.

Mr. Speaker, today, Governor Scranton embodies the traits, ideals, and values which many of us strive to achieve today, and I am honored to congratulate him on his many years of dedicated civic service to the community of Northeastern Pennsylvania, the Commonwealth, and the country.

HONORING ARIEL KOMINIQUE
TAYLOR

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 18, 2012

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a remarkable young woman, Ms. Ariel Kominique Taylor. Ariel was born in Indianola, Mississippi, to LaShunda King and Kamia Taylor. She is a dedicated member of Weeping Mary Baptist Church and proud member of the Humphreys County High School Class of 2012.

Ariel's commitment to academic excellence earned her the title of Salutatorian for Humphreys County High School Class of 2012. At Humphreys County High School, Ariel was a charter member of Students Making a Change, SMAC, a participant in The Mayor's City Youth Council, and was a member of the Youth with a Vision Community Choir. She also served as a sports journalist for the school's newspaper, a member of the Varsity Cheerleader Squad, and the school's tennis team.

After graduating, Ariel plans to attend Jackson State University and major in mathematics with an emphasis in accounting.

Mr. Speaker, I ask our colleagues to join me in recognizing Ms. Ariel Kominique Taylor for her continued effort in achieving excellence in education and leadership.

HONORING CAPTAIN FREDERICK E.
GAGHAN

HON. SILVESTRE REYES

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 18, 2012

Mr. REYES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Captain Fredrick E. Gaghan of the Joint Improvised Explosive Device Defeat Organization, JIEDDO, who will retire in November after 25 years of service.

Captain Gaghan has had a long and distinguished career in the United States Navy. Upon graduation from Hartwick College in 1987, he enlisted in the Navy as part of the Special Operations Officer Program and was subsequently commissioned in 1988. As a young naval officer, Captain Gaghan served onboard USS *Opportune*, ARS 41, as a qualified Surface Warfare Officer. Following his initial sea assignment, he became an Explosive Ordnance Disposal, EOD, officer and was first assigned to EOD Mobile Unit NINE. Throughout his career, Captain Gaghan has displayed exceptional professionalism and technical proficiency. As such, he was identified by his seniors as a leader who could be entrusted with command. He served as the Commanding Officer of EOD Mobile Unit FOUR as well as Commander, Task Group 56.1 in Bahrain. At